

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Listing of the Claims:

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A seal structure of a fuel cell unit comprising:
 - a plurality of components of the fuel cell unit, which are stacked;
 - a removable sealant interposed between the plurality of components which is made of a ~~non-solid~~ material that maintains an initial material state even under an environment where the fuel cell unit is used, the material being selected from a gel material, high viscosity material and pressure-sensitive adhesive material, wherein the sealant has adhesivity in at least a surface thereof;
 - a retaining portion which is formed on a surface of at least one of the plurality of components between which the sealant is interposed, so as to prevent the sealant from moving; and
 - a spacing portion formed separately from the plurality of components which keeps a constant distance between portions of the plurality of components where the sealant is interposed,
 - wherein the spacing portion is formed outside of the sealant, and
 - the sealant is disposed on a portion on which a gas passage for the fuel cell is formed on at least one of the plurality components,
 - wherein the sealant is adapted to be hardened before the plurality of components is stacked.
 - wherein the components are bonded via the adhesive force of the sealant only to allow the components to be separated at the sealed portions, and
 - wherein the sealant is removable for disassembly from the plurality of components to facilitate rebuilding and recycling of the fuel cell unit.
2. (Cancelled).
3. (Previously Presented) The seal structure according to claim 1, wherein the retaining portion is formed on at least one of the plurality of components, and a second retaining

portion is formed on at least one of another of the plurality of components, the retaining portion and the second retaining portion each having a surface surfaces facing each other.

4. (Previously Presented) The seal structure according to claim 1, wherein the retaining portion has a surface that receives a pressure applied along a plane direction of surfaces of the plurality of components through the sealant.

5-7. (Cancelled).

8. (Previously Presented) The seal structure according to claim 1, wherein the spacing portion is formed on at least one of the surfaces of the components, and another spacing portion is formed on at least one of another surface of the components, the surfaces facing each other.

9. (Previously Presented) The seal structure according to claim 1, wherein the components are electrically insulated from each other at the spacing portion.

10. (Cancelled).

11. (Original) The seal structure according to claim 1, wherein the retaining portion is formed concave or convex toward the sealant.

12. (Previously Presented) The seal structure according to claim 1, wherein the plurality of components are both separators.

13. (Previously Presented) The seal structure according to claim 1, wherein the plurality of components are a separator and an electrolyte membrane.

14. (Original) The seal structure according to claim 1, wherein the fuel cell unit is of a low-temperature type.

15-16. (Cancelled).

17. (Previously Presented) A seal structure of a fuel cell unit according to claim 1, wherein the sealant, the spacing portion, and the retaining portion are formed within the fuel cell unit.

18. (Previously Presented) A seal structure of a fuel cell according to claim 1 wherein, a manifold for separating each passage is formed in at least one of the plurality of components.

19. (Previously Presented) A seal structure of a fuel cell according to claim 18 wherein the spacing portion is formed outside of the manifold.

20. (Currently Amended) A seal structure of a fuel cell unit according to claim 1 wherein, the sealant is made of a material ~~selected from the group consisting of a gel material, high viscosity material, and pressure-sensitive adhesive material, which are~~ that is three dimensionally cross-linked, and the sealant has adhesivity in at least a surface thereof.

21. (Previously Presented) A seal structure of a fuel cell unit according to claim 1 wherein, the spacing portion is formed along an outer periphery of the plurality of components.

22. (Previously Presented) A seal structure of a fuel cell unit according to claim 18 wherein, the sealant is disposed at both sides of the manifold.

23. (Currently Amended) A seal structure of a fuel cell unit comprising:
a plurality of components of the fuel cell unit, which are stacked;
a ~~removable~~ sealant interposed between the plurality of components which is made of a ~~non-solid gel material that maintains an initial material state even under an environment where the fuel cell unit is used;~~

a retaining portion which is formed ~~as on a tapered surface on~~ on ~~of~~ at least one of the plurality of components facing the other one of the plurality of components between which the sealant is interposed, so as to prevent the sealant from moving; and

a spacing portion formed separately from the plurality of components which keeps a constant distance between portions of the plurality of components where the sealant is interposed,

wherein the spacing portion is formed outside of the sealant, and

the sealant is disposed on a portion on which a gas passage for the fuel cell is formed on at least one of the plurality components,

wherein the components are bonded via the adhesive force of the sealant only to allow the components to be separated at the sealed portions, and

wherein the sealant is removable for disassembly from the plurality of components to facilitate rebuilding and recycling of the fuel cell unit.

24. (Currently Amended) A seal structure of a fuel cell unit comprising:

a plurality of components of the fuel cell unit, which are stacked;

a ~~removable~~ sealant interposed between the plurality of components which is made of a ~~non-solid material that maintains an initial material state even under an environment where the fuel cell unit is used, the material being selected from a gel material[[.]] or a high viscosity material and pressure-sensitive adhesive material;~~

a first retaining portion which is formed ~~on~~ as a tapered surface of at least one of the plurality of components;

a second retaining portion, facing the first retaining portion, which is formed ~~on~~ as a tapered surface of at least another one of the plurality of components; and

a spacing portion formed separately from the plurality of components which keeps a constant distance between portions of the plurality of components where the sealant is interposed, wherein the spacing portion is formed outside of the sealant,

wherein a first portion of the sealant is arranged in a gap formed between opposing faces of the retaining portions such that the retaining portions prevent the sealant from moving, and another portion of the sealant is located outside the gap such that second faces of the retaining portions prevent the sealant from being blown off due to internal pressure applied thereto from fluids, and

wherein the components are bonded via the adhesive force of the sealant only to allow the components to be separated at the sealed portions, and

wherein the sealant is removable for disassembly from the plurality of components to facilitate rebuilding and recycling of the fuel cell unit.